Approved For Release 2000/04/18 TIME document is hereby regraded to CONSIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of a October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the Units States.

Next Review Date: 2008

COMPTDENTIAL

COMPTD

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE:

25X1X6

SUBJECT

Slovak Communists Attack Lettrich, Slovak Democratic Chairman INFO. DIST.

4 March 1947

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN 25X1X6

- The Slovak Communists have opened a violent attack on Dr. Jozef Lettrich, Chairman of the Slovak Democratic Party, who returned recently from a visit to the United States. The Communists are charging that Lettrich, while in America, got in touch with certain followers of the late Milan Hodza, champion of Slovak autonomy, and with members of the Slovak League, which prior to and during the war backed the Tisc Government in opposition to Benes Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile.
- About two weeks ago, Desider Benau, Communist head of the URO (Trade Unions) press in Slovakia, attacked Lettrich directly during a press conference. Lettrich retaliated by charging Benau with having spied on his movements in America, and declared that he could provide photostat copies of Benau's letters to prove it. Benau immediately countered with the accusation that Lettrich had arranged illegally to have his letters opened.
- 3. The Slovak Communists are now making use of the incident to reopen their attack on the entire Slovak Democratic Party, which they accuse of being "little more than a concentration point for former Ludova Strana (Hlinka-Tiso Party) and Agrarian elements."

CONTINUENTAL

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